



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: :  
Suyker et al. :  
 : Group Art Unit: 3743  
Application No.: 09/708,617 :  
 : Examiner: Kathryn Odland  
Filing Date: Nov. 9, 2000 :  
 :  
 : Attorney Docket No.:  
For: Permanently Deformable Connector for : DVME-1005US  
Mechanically Connecting Hollow Structures, :

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

APR 26 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, in relation to the above-identified application. This response is timely by virtue of the filing of a petition for a one-month extension of time herewith, as well as the payment of the extension fee.

**Amendments to the specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8**

I certify that this document, along with any document referred to as being attached, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on April 19, 2004, as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

EDNA Schmitt  
Name of Person Signing Correspondence

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Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence